

Testimony By: Representative Susan Johnson and Representative Russell Morin

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Representative Susan Johnson
Public Health Co-chair

Representative Russell Morin

Testimony supporting, AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT AND
TAXATION OF PROPERTY USED FOR PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES. HB 5508

Good morning Senator Catherine Osten, Representative Jason Rojas and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee, I am Representative Susan Johnson and I am speaking on behalf of Representative Russell Morin and myself. We speak in support of HB 5508 "An Act Concerning Municipal Assessment And Taxation of Property Used For Public Educational Purposes" with the amendment to include:

"Allowing municipalities the option of providing a tax exemption to non-profit organizations which make significant charitable contributions in the community to which the property tax obligation is owed."

The Federal Internal Revenue Code 501(c) (3) provides that organizations which are non-profit charitable entities qualify for federal tax exemptions. Connecticut law specifically allows property tax exemptions for certain properties that serve entities that are tax exempt. Connecticut law also allows for municipalities to have the option to exempt properties. This request is for the law to include permissive language so municipalities would be able to choose when and how often a property owned by a non-profit organization would be able to request and receive the exemption.

Significant contributions a municipality should be able to consider for a property tax exemption should be as follows:

- a. Providing educational programs;
- b. Providing funding for external educational programs; and,
- c. Contributing to civic programs, including scholarships and grants.

This would prove to be extremely beneficial to those entities which struggle to pay high property tax. It might create closeness in the community between the organizations that serve the people and the government that also has that duty. We respectfully request that the Planning and Development Committee incorporate the suggested permissive language in HB 5508. Thank you for your consideration of this request.